



Attorney Docket No. : 52433/821

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Y. IKEMATSU et al.
Serial No. : 10/552,668
Filed : October 5, 2005
For : HIGH STRENGTH MOLTEN ZINC PLATED STEEL
SHEET AND PROCESS OF PRODUCTION OF SAME
Examiner : Zimmerman, John J.
Art Unit : 1794
Confirmation No. : 7228

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Considered.
/JZ/
11/6/2009

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

I, Yoichi Ikematsu, Ph.D., hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am a co-inventor, along with K. Tanaka, S. Hayashi, H. Sawada, A. Takahashi, K. Honda, M. Suehiro, and Y. Takada of the above-identified patent application, which has been assigned to Nippon Steel Corporation (“Nippon”). I have been employed since 1988 by Nippon Steel Corporation, in Kanagawa, Japan at the Advance Technology Research Laboratories, R & D Bureau, engaged in analysis and evaluation of steel sheet material. I graduated in Material Engineering from Nagoya Institute of Technology in 1988 and obtained my doctorate in Engineering in 2000 from Tohoku University.

2. I have reviewed the Final Office Action mailed May 20, 2009, and the references cited therein, *i.e.*, Japan No. 2001-323355 (“JP ’355”), U.S. Patent No. 6,398,884 (“US ’884”), and Japan No. 2000-290730 (“JP ’730”). I have also reviewed pending claim 1.

3. I understand that the Examiner is of the opinion that JP ’355 discloses a high strength galvanized steel having excellent corrosion resistance and platability wherein the